THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLIMARAN): (a) to(c) The statutory boards and other bodies under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce and their headquarters are as under :—

1.	Tea Board	Calcutta
2.	Coffee Board	Bangalore
3.	Rubber Board	Kouayam
4.	Spices Board	Cochm
5.	Tobacco Board	Guntur
6.	Marine Products Export Development Authority	Cochin
7.	Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority	New Delhi
8.	Export Inspection Council	New Delhi

(d) and (e) The headquarters of a statutory board/body is determined generally keeping in view various factors such as major production base, trading centre etc. of the respective commodity/commodities.

Protection to Tea Industry

2450. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTOY be pleased to state:

(a) how Government have plan to save the tea industry when heavy imports of tea is being made despite enough production in the Country;

(b) what is the exact quantity of import of tea during the last three years;

(c) the details country-wise:

(d) what is the quantity of tea exported dunng the last 3 years:

(e) the details thereof, country-wise;

(f) what is the production of tea during the last 3 years; and

(g) the details thereof State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLIMARAN): (a) There is no threat to Indian tea industry as import of tea into India is not significant. Import of tea during 1998-99 was 8.93 million kgs as against the domestic production of 850.25 million kgs.

(b) to (e) Country-wise details of import and export of tea during the last three years are as follows:

Import (Qty in mn. kgs.)

Country of Origin	1998-99	1997-98	1996-97
Indonesia	4.36	0.71	0.58
Turkey	2.51	0.01	—
Bangladesh	0 54	0.28	0.02
Sri Lanka	0.39	0.25	0.02
Others	1.13	1 36	0.63
Total:	8.93	2.61	1.25

E.xport (Qty in mn. kgs.)

Country	19918-99	1997-98	1996-97
Russia Federation	82.30	92.20	49.00
U.K.	21.51	26.97	24.26
UAE	19.78	23.65	19.83
Iraq	10.25	2.41	—
Poland	9.73	10,10	13.71
Kazakistan	7.62	4.47	1.69
U.S.A.	6.60	5.45	5.02
Germany	5.52	5.55	6.71
Saudi Arabia	3.39	3.46	4.10
Other Ctry.	38.49	3700	72.14
Total :	205.19	21L26	169 04

(f) and (g) State-wise details of production of tea during the last three years are as follows :

Production (Qty in mn. kgs.)

Name of the States	1998-99	1997-98	1996-97
Assam	449.02	438.76	419.25
West Bengal	191.20	177.10	160.00
Tamil Nadu	124.31	134.44	118.42
Kerala	69.58	72.37	63.42
Other Stales	16.14	15.35	14.22
ALL INDIA	850.25	838.02	775.31

{Source: Tea Board)

Phasing out DEPB Scheme under WTO Agreement

2451. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTOY be pleased lo state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the forthcoming WTO agreements, the DEPB scheme may have to be phased out; and

(b) what alternative plans Government have made to protect exports'

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRl MURASOLl MARAN): (a) with a view to achieving simplification of duty neutralization mechanisms and procedures, it has been decided lo phase out the DEPB scheme with effect from 31-03-2002

(b) From 1st April, 2002 onwards, exporters shall be reimbursed the indirect taxes and duties, paid on inputs, at the time of shipment itself, through one Duty Drawback Scheme.

News items captioned "Seagrams cashes in policy confusion buys distillery"

2452. SHRIDILIP SINGH JUDEV Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state